

REMARKS

The indication that claims 8-10 are allowed and that claims 2-7 are objected to, is acknowledged.

By the present amendment, the specification has been amended to overcome the informalities noted by the Examiner, with the abstract also being amended to overcome the objections set forth by the Examiner. Additionally, allowed claim 8 of allowed claims 8-10 has been amended to overcome the informalities noted by the Examiner, with the suggestions of the Examiner being adopted. Also, by the present amendment, claims 1 and 12 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter, noting that by cancellation of claim 12, the objection to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) should be overcome in that the feature contended to not be illustrated by the Examiner is no longer a claimed feature of the claims. Accordingly, further illustration in the drawings is considered unnecessary.

Since claims 2-7 have been objected to, which claims depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, by the present amendment, objected to claims 2 and 5 have been rewritten in independent form incorporating the features of parent claim 1 therein, such that independent claim 2 and dependent claims 3 and 4 as well as independent claim 5 with dependent claims 6 and 7 should now be in condition for allowance.

As recognized by the Examiner, the specific recitation of "said meandering compensation sensitivity adjusting means" as recited in previous dependent claims 2 and 5 are not disclosed or taught in the cited art. Accordingly, by the present amendment, independent claim 11 has been amended to incorporate the features of "said meandering compensation sensitivity adjusting means" as recited in claim 2, and applicants submit that by such amendment, claim 11, as amended, should now be in condition for allowance. Furthermore, by the present amendment, new dependent claims 13 and 14 have been presented which correspond to the features

of dependent claims 3 and 4 dependent upon claim 11, as amended, and hereagain, the Examiner recognizes that such features when considered with the features of the parent claims are not disclosed in the cited art.

Additionally, by the present amendment, a new independent claim 15 has been presented, which corresponds to the features previously set forth in claim 11 together with the features previously set forth in dependent claim 5, which features of dependent claim 5, the Examiner recognizes are not disclosed or taught in the cited art. Furthermore, dependent claims 16 and 17 have been presented which correspond to the features of previous dependent claims 6 and 7 dependent upon claim 15, and applicants submit that these features are also not disclosed or taught in the cited art.

As to the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Poehlein (US Pat. No. 5,410,389) and the rejection of claims 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Asuwa et al (US Pat. Pub. No. 2002/0034400 A1) in view of Poehlein, such rejections are traversed insofar as they are applicable to the present claims, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

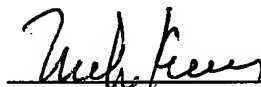
As noted above, claims 1 and 12 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof, thereby obviating the rejections as set forth, with claim 11 being amended to incorporate the features of claim 2 therein, which the Examiner recognizes is not disclosed or taught in the cited art, and new independent claim 15 presented corresponding to claim 11 amended to incorporate the features of previous dependent claim 5 therein, which features the Examiner also recognizes are not disclosed or taught in the cited art. Applicants further note that with respect to the combination of Poehlein and Asuwa et al, applicants submit that Asuwa et al is not properly available in rejecting claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(c) in that Asuwa et al and the present application are commonly assigned. Thus, it is apparent that this

combination as suggested by the Examiner is also not proper. Accordingly, applicants submit that claim 11, as amended, as well as claim 15 and the dependent claims thereof should be considered allowable over the art.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicants submit that all claims present in this application patentably distinguish over the cited art and should now be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, issuance of an action of a favorable nature is courteously solicited.

To the extent necessary, applicant's petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (500.42968X00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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